(d) by when the telephcue connection registered against demand note No. D'B-607 (Application No. A-2782) issued on 6tli August, 1996 is likely to be installed; and

(e) by when the waitjng list is likely to be cleared?

TflE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. IONS (SHRI BENl PRASAL VARMA): (a) to (c) Out of the total waiting list of 1955 t)f Genelal Categogry as on 28.2.97 in th-steel city of Rotirkeia, 1064 connections have since been provided. The remaininig waiting list of 891 coiild not be cleared since only 1000 Ire expansion could be completed Jv stead Lif 2000 lines proposed fo" RLU Exchange, Rourkela Township

(d) This telephone connection is likely to be inMalled by end of October 1997.

(e) The remaining waiting list is likeiy to be cleared progressive by June, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and sitores.

BASIC communication facilities in rural areas of Maharashtra

2340 PROF. RAM KAPSE: Wil the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(c) the tcrgtet fixed alongwith the time frame for providing basic com. niunication facUitiies to all the villages in Maharashtra;

(b) whether technology developed by C-DOT has been helpful in pro ding cheaper communication faci 1 es in rural areas of the State;

(c) if s'o, the details thereof, and

' (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNT CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Out of 40023 villages in Iviaharashtria, 27420 village' have akeady been provided with telecom facility. The remaining villages are planned to be provided with, basic communjication fac ties during the IXth Plan-

(b) to (d) Technology developer. by C—DOT comprising of 128 to 1400 line exchanges has been found to be very suitable for modernising the telecom facilities in rural areas of the coutry C-DOT exohanges up to 256 liuas do not require Air Condivioned environment.

Multiple providers in internet services

2350. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD. Wm the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have oeen received for ending the rr.on-opoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ijmited of the Department of Tele. communications in Intet access rnd services to permit multiple providers for more competitive service;

(b) if so, the main points made by the representationists and the actioii taken thereon; and

(c) the comparative position ob tpining in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Ktorea, etc in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Come representations have been loeeived seeking permission/licence to operate Internet Service Provider as also proposing to end monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Pro-ptsrsl regarding opening of Internet service provision by Indian regis-tererl companies is under consideration of the Governer.